

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 will remain pending in the application upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1, 5, and 7 are independent.

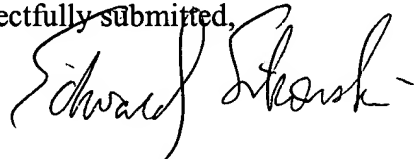
The change to the first sentence of the specification merely corrects the claim of priority to the now-issued parent case. The parent case was inadvertently mis-identified in the filing papers for the present application.

If the Office has any questions regarding this paper, then please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-0683 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Date: March 9, 2000

Respectfully submitted,



By

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